

Work Task D10

Initiation of Studies for Monitoring Small Mammal Populations

Contact:	Theresa Olson, LC-8222
Purpose:	Develop survey techniques, intervals, and standards for monitoring LCR MSCP covered mammal species and testing protocols developed. Once protocols are refined, implementation will take place.
Conservation Measures:	MRM2, DPMO1, CRCR2, and YHCR2
Long-term Goals:	Data will be used in the adaptive management process to coordinate surveys of restoration sites and to design habitat for covered mammal species.
FY2006 Estimate:	\$60,000 covers Reclamation staff, travel, and equipment.
FY2007 Estimate:	\$50,000 and cover Reclamation staff, travel and equipment for implementation of protocols developed.
FY2008 Estimate:	\$50,000. Same as previous year.
Project Description:	The Colorado River cotton rat and Yuma hispid cotton rat are covered species under the LCR MSCP and have habitat acres listed as a restoration goal within the Habitat Conservation Plan. The desert pocket mouse is listed as an evaluation species. Reclamation will develop system wide survey protocols and techniques utilizing the most current scientific information and expertise. Protocols will focus on collecting data on existing populations, on habitats previously known to have been occupied, and on habitat affinity. Once protocols are

developed, they will be tested and implemented. These data will be used in the adaptive management program to design and manage habitat restoration for these species.

Specific FY2006 Work Tasks:

- a) Coordinate with wildlife agencies and other interested parties to develop best methods for system-wide small mammal surveys to determine populations and habitats for the covered species. This may be done via conference calls and/or workshops.
- b) Once protocols have been developed, they will be field tested and refined. Implementation would begin in FY2007.